ONSTAGE
IN NEW JERSEY

AMERICAN CULTURE REDEFINED:

The Influence of African-American Artists on Urban Culture



March 7 - May 31
1992

Presented by The Carter G. Woodson Foundation

We grow the arts in New Jersey.



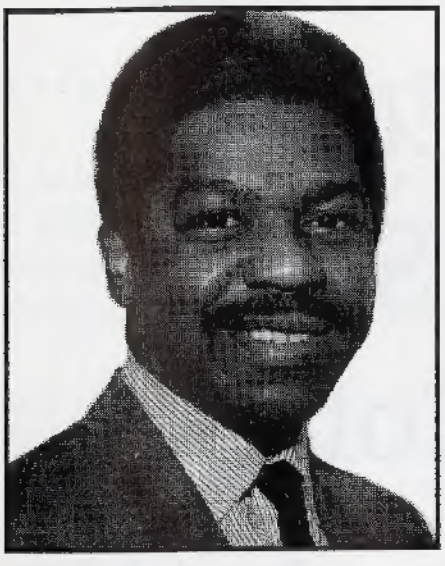
Some states support the arts. In New Jersey we invest in them—artists and arts organizations. Our programs have become models for the nation. We're here to cultivate the arts. After all they call us the Garden State.

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Message From The President
THE CARTER G. WOODSON FOUNDATION



This fifth **OnStage In New Jersey** series celebrates the collective values, attitudes and philosophies represented by the last fifty years of African American culture. The broad range of events we bring you traces our cultural history: from the tradition of the **Griot** to the power of the **Freedom Struggle** to the popular contemporary **Hip Hop** scene. We are so pleased you have chosen to join us in our journey.

This year, the participation of our major municipalities truly underscores their commitment to enliven the cultural characters of their cities. We are grateful to the cities of Newark, East Orange and Irvington for their generous contributions, and to NJ TRANSIT and WNJR for providing much appreciated promotional support for our series.

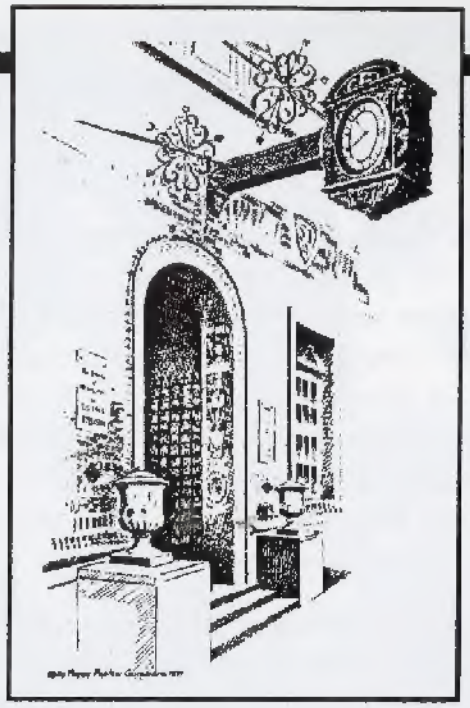
We also thank our co-sponsors, Honorary Committee, contributors, advertisers, volunteers, production resources and performance venues for making this season possible. But it is you, our audience, that drives us at the Woodson Foundation to produce more expansive and better programs each year. For you are the soul of the community and serving you is our privilege.

The mission of the Carter G. Woodson Foundation is to research, preserve, perpetuate and celebrate the creative expressions, cultural heritage and historic achievements of African Americans through performances, exhibits and educational activities. In addition to our **OnStage In New Jersey** series, the Woodson Foundation represents high quality theater, dance, music and literary artists through our **Black Culture on Tour in America** touring program; while our **Artists-In-The-Schools** program instills in young people an early appreciation for the performing arts and African-American culture.

We welcome you to the Woodson Foundation family and hope to see you again, year after year, to discover with us the talents and influences of some of our nation's finest artists.

Thank you and enjoy!

Philip Thomas



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Dear OnStage In New Jersey Patrons:

On behalf of the Honorary Committee, we are pleased to welcome you to the 1992 **OnStage In New Jersey** series. This year's schedule is an exciting offering of entertaining and thought provoking programs that highlight the rich legacy of the African American experience.

Since the **OnStage In New Jersey** series began, thousands throughout the New Jersey metropolitan area have been exposed to the diversity of African American cultural expression. The **OnStage** series continues to bring quality programs to its audiences.

Enjoy the programs offered this season and thank you for your continued support of **OnStage In New Jersey**.

Sincerely,

Cardell Cooper
Mayor, City of East Orange
Co-Chair, Honorary Committee

Sharpe James
Mayor, City of Newark
Co-Chair, Honorary Committee

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We believe in our community, and our major construction and renovation project is concrete evidence of that faith. East Orange is a city coming alive with a rebirth of energy and enthusiasm.

We're proud to be a part of it!

Message From the Board of Directors
THE CARTER G. WOODSON FOUNDATION

Once again it is my pleasure, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Carter G. Woodson Foundation, to welcome you to our **OnStage In New Jersey** performing arts series. We are proud to tell you that now, in our fifth season, **OnStage** ranks among the most extensive performing arts series in the country dedicated exclusively to the presentation of African American artists. With your ongoing support, we will continue to bring you high quality, accessible programming for your enjoyment. Thanks for joining us!

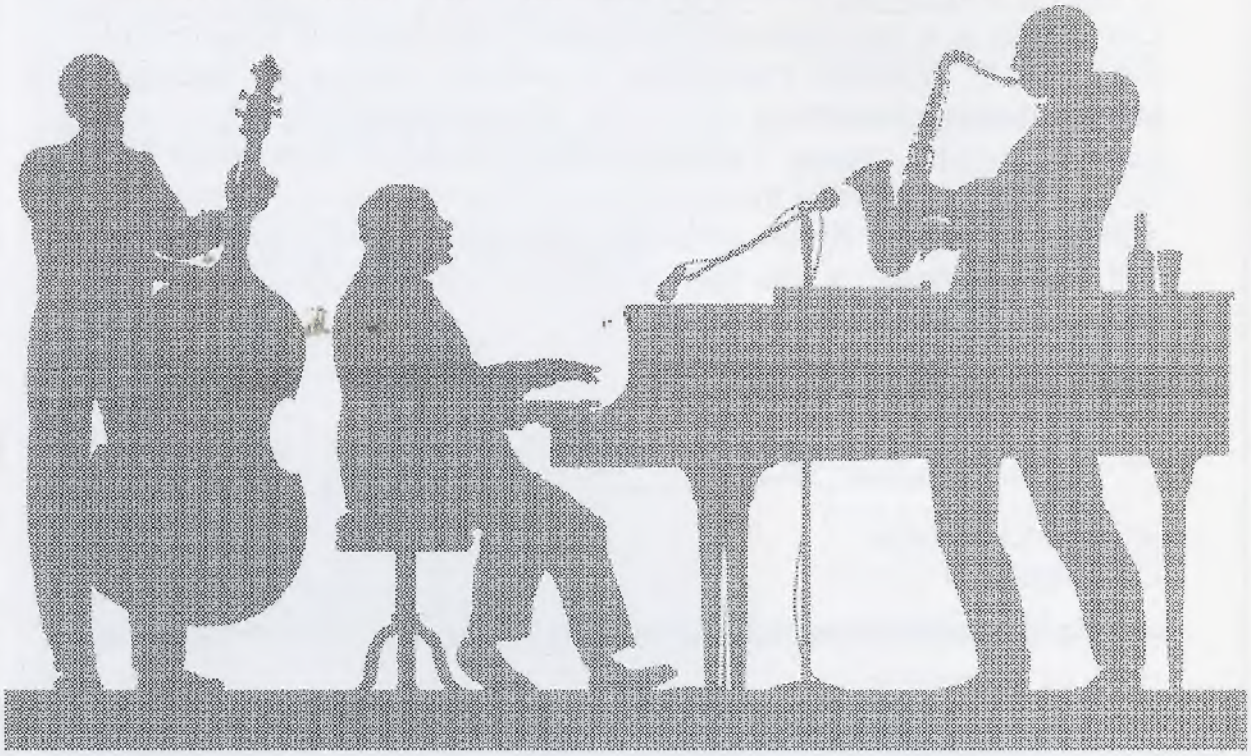
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Chairperson

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Standing: *Mary McElrath; Siobhan Teare; Sharon McGahee; Penny Corum (Secretary); Saundra DeGeneste; Denee F. McKnight (Treasurer); Antenor Adam.* ***Seated:*** *Lorna K. Johnson (First Vice-Chairperson); Jeri Warrick-Crisman (Chairperson); Philip Thomas (President); Elisa Puzzuoli (Second Vice-Chairperson)*
(Not Shown: Herbert L. Bright, Ronnie Oxford, Michele Shay)

NJ TRANSIT CELEBRATES THE 5TH SEASON OF THE ONSTAGE IN NEW JERSEY SERIES



NJ TRANSIT is a proud supporter of the 1992 OnStage In New Jersey Series. In its fifth exciting year, the OnStage In New Jersey Series is an exquisite entertainment experience. And to get you there, NJ TRANSIT is the way to go!

NJ TRANSIT provides service to all OnStage In New Jersey events from areas throughout New Jersey. And with our free coupon book, you can also save on admission. With service to each event and discounts on admission, NJ TRANSIT is the way to go and the way to save!

For more information call NJ TRANSIT at 1-800-772-2222.

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OnStage In New Jersey 1992

- Schedule of Events -

Artist	Date	Time	Location
Sweet Honey In The Rock	*Mar. 7*	*8:00 pm*	Newark Symphony Hall
Sweet Honey In The Rock	*Mar. 8*	*4:00 pm*	Red Bank Regional High School
The Griot John Amos in "Halley's Comet"	*Mar. 14*	*8:00 pm*	John Harms Center for the Arts Englewood
Sisters United Maya Angelou Sister Sadie & the Famous Biblettes Betty Neals	*Mar. 22*	*4:00 pm*	East Orange High School
Soul Explosion Lady Soul: A Cabaret Tribute to the Music of Aretha Franklin	*Mar. 26* *Mar. 27* *Mar. 28* *Mar. 29*	*8:00 pm* *8:00 pm* *1:00 pm* *6:00 pm*	Newark Symphony Hall The Terrace Room
Afrocentric Expression Phyllis Yvonne Stickney Dr. Molefi Kete Asante Women's Sekere Ensemble	*Apr. 3* *Apr. 4* *Apr. 5*	*8:00 pm* *8:00 pm* *4:00 pm*	Passaic County College College Theatre, Paterson Bloomfield College Robert V. Van Fossan Theatre Walt Whitman Cultural Arts Center, Camden
Hip Hop Culture Cooly Live Sudden Change	*Apr. 10*	*7:00 pm*	Irvington High School
In The Spirit Marion Williams	*May 3*	*4:00 pm*	Galilee Baptist Church Trenton
Jazz Journey Benny Golson	*May 6*	*7:00 pm*	Rosa Parks High School Fine Arts Theatre Paterson
The Black Consciousness Movement: Poetry for the People	*May 9*	*7:00 pm*	Jersey City State College Margaret Williams Auditorium
Urban Bush Women	*May 11*	*8:00 pm*	Montclair State Memorial Auditorium
Classical and Black Anderson String Quartet Richard Alston	*May 31*	*3:00 pm*	The Newark Museum Billy Johnson Auditorium

FOR INFORMATION ON ALL PERFORMANCES

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OnStage In New Jersey

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Congratulations

to

The Woodson Foundation

on its

Fifth Season of "OnStage In New Jersey"



Sharpe James, Mayor
Newark, New Jersey

SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK



Saturday, March 7, 8:00 pm
Newark Symphony Hall

Sunday, March 8, 4:00 pm
Red Bank Regional High School

Sweet Honey In The Rock takes their audiences through an astonishing and complex journey of celebration and struggle that is rooted in the history of the African American legacy. Singing unaccompanied except for body and hand percussion instruments, this quintet has a sound and repertoire that is rooted in the tradition of African American congregational choral style and branches to embrace its many extensions. Founded by Bernice Johnson Reagon in 1973, Sweet Honey creates breathtaking music that has established for her a solid international reputation and following.

Presented in association with the City of Newark, Newark Symphony Hall and Kap-Sig Theatre Group, Inc

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The Woodson Foundation
and our members:

Jerri Warrick-Crisman,
Chairman of The Board
Woodson Foundation

Barbara B. Marsan,
Member, Advisory Board
Woodson Foundation

JOHN AMOS in "HALLEY'S COMET"



Saturday, March 14, 8:00 pm
John Harms Center for the Arts, Englewood

John Amos, in an astonishing character portrayal, transforms himself into an eighty-seven year old man who sets out to have a talk with **"Halley's Comet"** in this ninety minute one-man show. As an acclaimed actor, John Amos has been featured in the television show "Good Times" and the mini-series "Roots." His film credits have included Mr. MacDowell the restauranteur/opportunist from Eddie Murphy's "Coming to America", Captain Meissner in Sylvester Stallones' "Lock Up" and co-starring with Bruce Willis in "Die Hard II."

A presentation of The John Harms Center for The Arts in association with The Carter G. Woodson Foundation.

The City of East Orange Salutes the Carter G. Woodson Foundation and its 1992 OnStage In New Jersey Series



"I am proud to serve as co-chair during this year's program and East Orange is proud to host Maya Angelou on March 22 at East Orange High School."

Cardell Cooper
Mayor

SISTERS UNITED

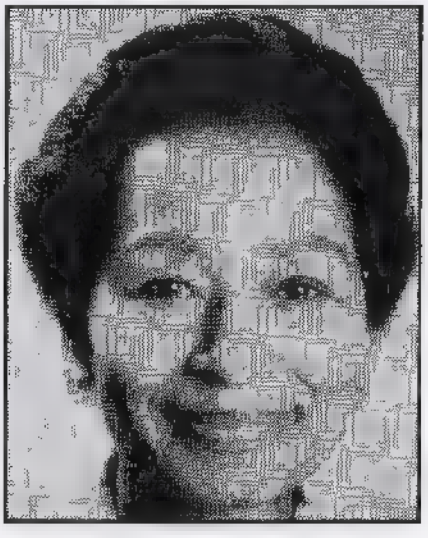


MAYA ANGELOU has been a singer, educator, dancer, author, historian, lecturer, actress, producer, editor, songwriter and playwright. Random House has published four of her autobiographical bestsellers. Her articles have appeared in The New York Times, Redbook and Cosmopolitan. In the sixties, at the request of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. she became the Northern Coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Dr. Angelou has received many honorary doctorates, as well as the Chubb Fellowship from Yale. In 1981 she was appointed the first Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University, where she currently teaches. Her wealth of information and ability to speak on countless subjects make Dr. Angelou one of today's most in-demand speaking personalities.

Sunday, March 22, 4:00 pm
East Orange High School



Sister Sadie and the Famous Biblettes have been traveling extensively across the United States for the past eighteen years, spreading gospel throughout the country. They have performed with Shirley Caesar, Dorothy Norwood, The Edwin Hawkins Singers and the Gospel Keynotes. The Biblettes have five albums to their credit, including "Til He Comes", "Blessing Us All Through These Years" and "Times".



Betty H. Neals, a poet residing in East Orange, NJ, has been published by Sesame Press, Continuities Magazine and Black Creation Magazine. She has recited her work at colleges and universities nationally, and has appeared on New Jersey Public Television's shows "Express Yourself" and "Focal Point".

Presented in association with the City of East Orange.

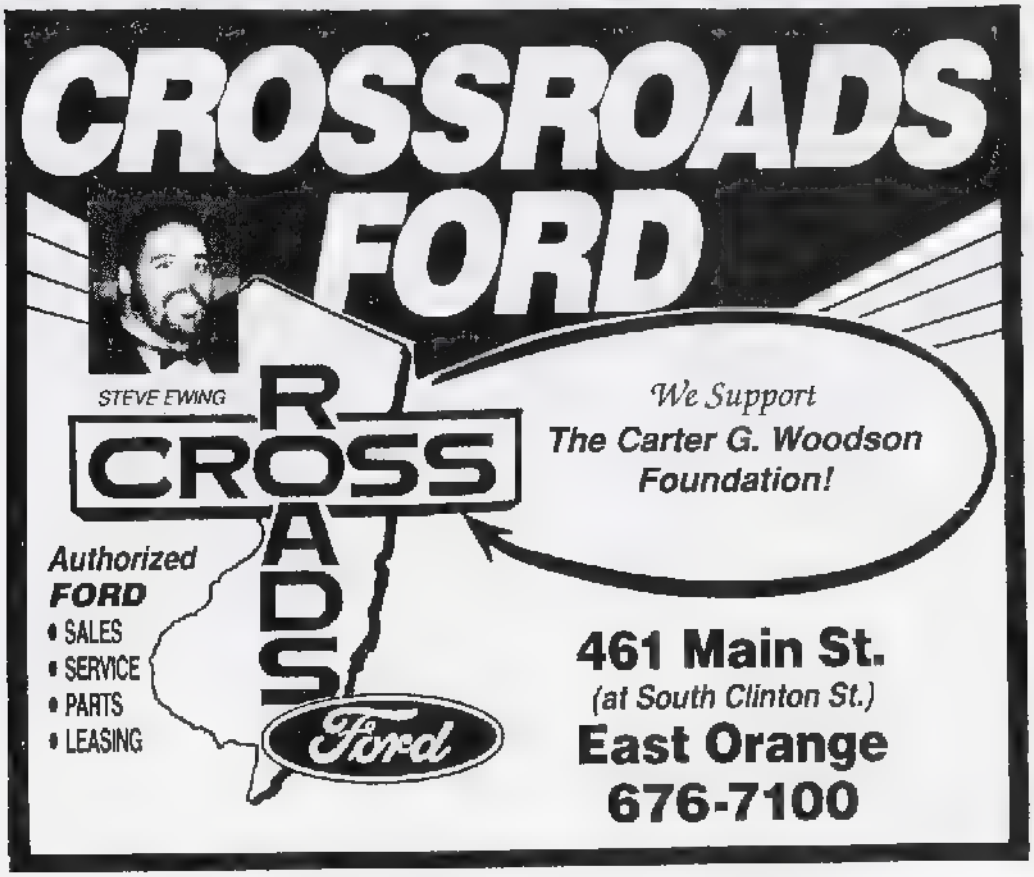
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Congratulations
To The
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OnStage In New Jersey



LADY SOUL:
A CABARET TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF ARETHA FRANKLIN



Thursday, March 26, 8:00 pm
Friday, March 27, 8:00 pm
Saturday, March 28, 1:00 pm
Sunday, March 29, 6:00 pm

The Terrace Room at Newark Symphony Hall

Lady Soul: A Cabaret Tribute to the Music of Aretha Franklin interweaves the songs made famous by Aretha Franklin into a tender love story reflecting the joy, love and pain of life. Musical selections range from Aretha's hits from the 1960's such as "Ain't No Way", "Dr. Feelgood", and "Respect", to her most recent release "It Isn't, It Wasn't, It Ain't Never Gonna Be", recorded with Whitney Houston.

A co-presentation of the Carter G. Woodson Foundation and Newark Symphony Hall.



Help Strengthen the Black Family... Support the Black United Fund of New Jersey

Robert Treat Center
50 Park Place, Suite 1419
Newark, NJ 07102

Lloyd J. Oxford
President
(201) 624-0909

One of the most cherished institutions of the black experience is the Black Family. This illustration depicts the Black United Fund of New Jersey's commitment of standing behind the Black Families of New Jersey, giving hope and strengthening the family fiber, which enables them to give back to their respective communities.

AFROCENTRIC EXPRESSION



PHYLLIS YVONNE STICKNEY, the chameleon actress and artist, celebrates the spirit of life, love and the universe through her creations in theatre, television and film. In 1983, Ms. Stickney was presented with the AUDELCO Award for her performance in the Roger Furman adaptation of Moliere's Tartuffe. The young actress landed her first film role as Anna Douglass and has since appeared in "New Jack City", directed by Mario Van Peebles and Spike Lee's "Jungle Fever". Ms. Stickney writes and produces The Upper Room, a weekly writer's workshop in Los Angeles, as well as The Comedy Connection in New York City at the Cotton Club.

Friday, April 3, 8:00 pm — Passaic County College, Paterson
Saturday, April 4, 8:00 pm — Bloomfield College
Sunday, April 5, 4:00 pm — Walt Whitman Cultural Arts Center, Camden

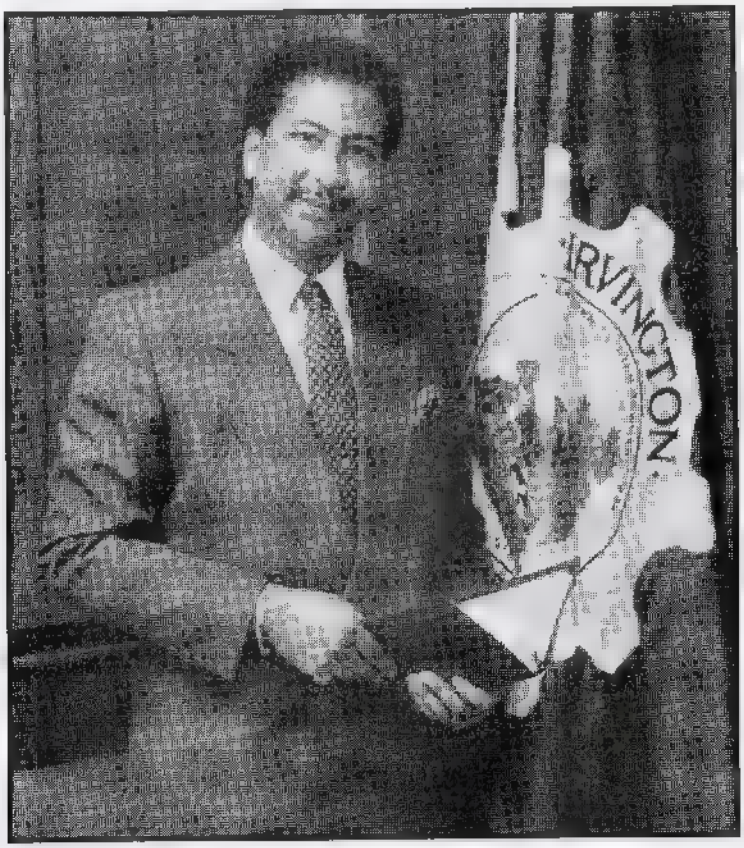


Dr. Molefi Kete Asante is the chairman of African-American studies at Temple University in Philadelphia. As the author of Afrocentricity: The Theory of Social Change, The Afrocentric Idea and Kemet, Afrocentricity and Knowledge, Dr. Asante is an acknowledged expert and one of the most sought after speakers in the rapidly expanding field of Afrocentricity.

Presented in association with Bloomfield College, Passaic County College Office of Cultural Affairs and Walt Whitman Cultural Arts Center.



Women's Sekere Ensemble from Philadelphia, flawlessly presents in their concerts the percussive music found in Africa, Brazil, Cuba, Haiti and Puerto Rico. The group was founded by Omomola Iyabunmi, who has studied shekere for more than twenty years. She trained at the Yoruba Temple in New York under the guidance of Oseijerman Adefunmi. The Women's Sekere Ensemble has performed at the Odunde Festival and Africamericas Festival, New Jersey Black Issues Convention and the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum.



MICHAEL G. STEELE, MAYOR
IRVINGTON, NEW JERSEY

Congratulations

to

THE WOODSON FOUNDATION

"The Township of Irvington is proud to participate in this cultural exchange. Let me congratulate you for providing such cultural and educational programs for the citizens of Irvington and Essex County."

HIP HOP CULTURE



COOLY LIVE! will astonish you with his unique ability to rap "freestyle" about anyone in any given situation. Put him in front of an audience and he will incorporate the names and faces of people he encounters as he moves through the crowd - never missing a beat, even teaching a few lessons along the way. His first single, "That's What I Like (Jungle Fever)", on RCA Records was released in February.

Friday, April 10, 7:00 pm
Irvington High School

SUDDEN CHANGE, you've seen them on Video Jukebox. These New Jersey "Fly Girls" are taking the hip hop dance scene by storm as they redefine the relationship between music, dance and language; the boundaries between speech and movement and song, and the levels at which meaning may reside in music.



Presented in association with the Township of Irvington.

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Samuel Taylor Coleridge

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MARION WILLIAMS



Sunday, May 3, 4:00 pm
Galilee Baptist Church, Trenton

Marion Williams, the great gospel singer, has been called "one of the most magnificent voices in American music" by The New York Times. Ms. Williams sings in the tradition of black gospel, the sounds and expressions from an open improvisatory style combined with the exciting rhythms of the Sanctified Church, the influence of an urban milieu, and the blues. Since 1947, when she got her first big break with the popular Clara Ward Singers, Ms. Williams has revolutionized gospel singing with her powerful and versatile soprano voice and has inspired generations of artists, from Little Richard to Mahalia Jackson.

Presented in association with Galilee Baptist Church.

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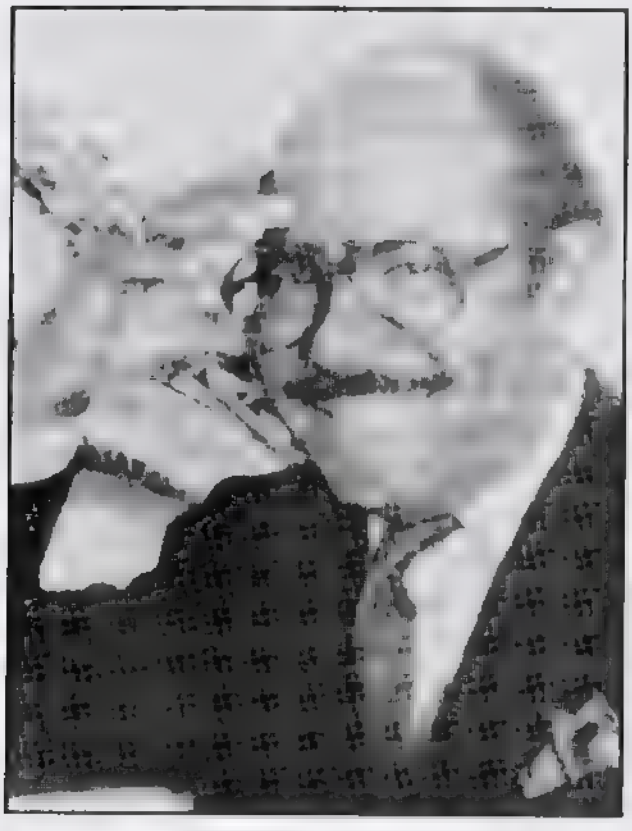
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JAZZ JOURNEY:
BENNY GOLSON



Wednesday, May 6, 7:00 pm
Rosa Parks Fine Arts High School, Paterson

Benny Golson is an acclaimed musical artist who is at home in nearly every idiom of modern music. But it is his composing - a tuneful, melodic signature sound - that sets him apart from his jazz contemporaries. Such original Golson compositions as "Stablemates", "Whisper Not", "Blues March" and "Remember Clifford" were important staples in the hard-bop repertoires of countless bands in the 50's and 60's. Mr. Golson wrote scores for the television shows "M*A*S*H", "Mission Impossible", "Room 222", "The Partridge Family", "Mannix" and "The Mod Squad". In the early 80's, he returned to performing and recorded several critically lauded albums for Contemporary Records.

Presented in association with William Paterson College and Rosa Parks Fine Arts High School.

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BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS MOVEMENT:
POETRY FOR THE PEOPLE



Amiri Baraka, New Jersey's noted poet and playwright, is considered a major figure in the literary cultural evolution of American writers and a key force in the development of the Black theatre movement. He has taught at Yale and Columbia Universities and is currently a tenured professor and Chairman of the African Studies Department at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.



Mari Evans, musician, writer, educator, activist, has lectured and read at universities and colleges across the country. Formerly Distinguished Professor, ASRC, Cornell University, she has taught at Indiana University, St. Louis, the State University of New York at Albany, the University of Miami at Coral Gables and Spelman College over the past 20 years. She has also received numerous awards and honors.

Saturday, May 9, 7:00 pm
Jersey City State College
Margaret Williams Auditorium



Haki R. Madhubuti, poet, is editor of Third World Press and director of the Institute of Positive Education in Chicago. He has won the National Leadership Award from the National Council for Black Studies and is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Mr. Madhubuti has given readings and workshops at over 1000 colleges, universities and community centers in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the United States.

Sonia Sanchez is world-renowned for writing 13 books which explore themes such as oppression, feminism, Black culture and literature. She holds the Laura Carnell Chair in English at Temple University and is the University's first Presidential Fellow. A fiery leader at the forefront of the Black Consciousness Movement in the 1960's, Ms. Sanchez remains a strong figure who has not lost an ounce of zeal in her quest for peace and racial justice.



Presented in association with Jersey City State College and Jersey City Public Library/ Community Awareness Series.

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Celebrate African American Culture with the Woodson Foundation's 1992 OnStage In New Jersey Performing Arts Series

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Hardge Davis, Jr. Esq.
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URBAN BUSH WOMEN



Monday, May 11, 8:00 pm
Montclair State, Memorial Auditorium

Urban Bush Women present performance works inspired by the folklore and religious traditions of African Americans, Africans and Caribbeans throughout the diaspora. Through the driving immediacy of live music, drama, the wit of the spoken word, and vocal sounds based on field hollers and chants, Urban Bush Women explores the struggles, growth and transformation of the human spirit.

A presentation of Montclair State School of Fine and Performing Arts in association with the Carter G. Woodson Foundation.

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CLASSICAL AND BLACK



Marianne Henry, Marisa McLeod, Diedra Lawrence, Michael Cameron

The Anderson String Quartet was informed on April 13, 1991 that they had won the 1991 International Cleveland Quartet Competition. Until that time, they were known as the Chaminade String Quartet, after the French composer Cecile Chaminade. But, after winning the Cleveland, they conducted a research project and discovered that they were the first all-black classical musical ensemble to win a major competition. Finding it hard to believe that at the close of the twentieth century, after so much struggle and achievement, that there would still be room for a first anything, the four agreed it was time for a change. This change would shine the brightest possible light on this new sign of progress.

With the help of Robert Freeman, the director of the Eastman School of Music, the quartet contacted the great contralto Marian Anderson and requested her permission for the use of her name. In October of last year, Miss Anderson gave her enthusiastic approval.

This first season as the Anderson String Quartet, marking a new chapter in their lives, is dedicated to one of the greatest Americans of this century, Miss Marian Anderson.

Sunday, May 31, 3:00 pm
The Newark Museum
Billy Johnson Auditorium

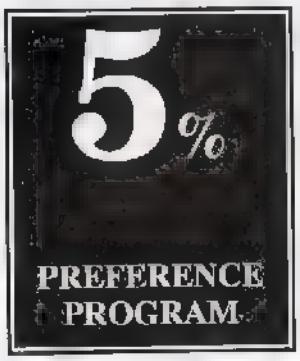


Richard Alston, pianist, is rapidly gaining recognition as one of today's most exciting young concert artists. Born in East Orange, NJ, he received his first musical instruction from Dorothy Earley of that city. He graduated from Julliard and was awarded the prestigious Maria Guerra Judelson scholarship in piano to complete his Masters degree at Julliard. Mr. Alston has performed with the Chatauqua Symphony Orchestra, the Symphony of the New World at Lincoln Center and with the Metropolitan Opera Company. He is on the faculty of Rutgers University and the Harlem School of the Arts in New York City.

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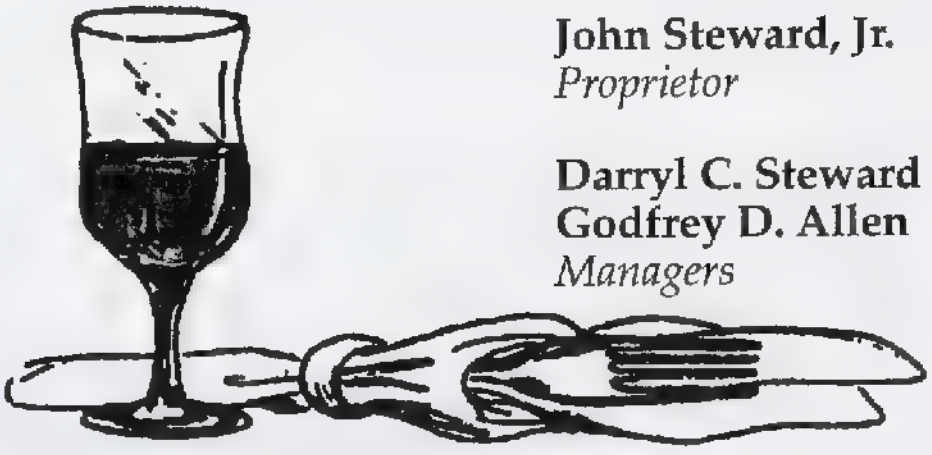
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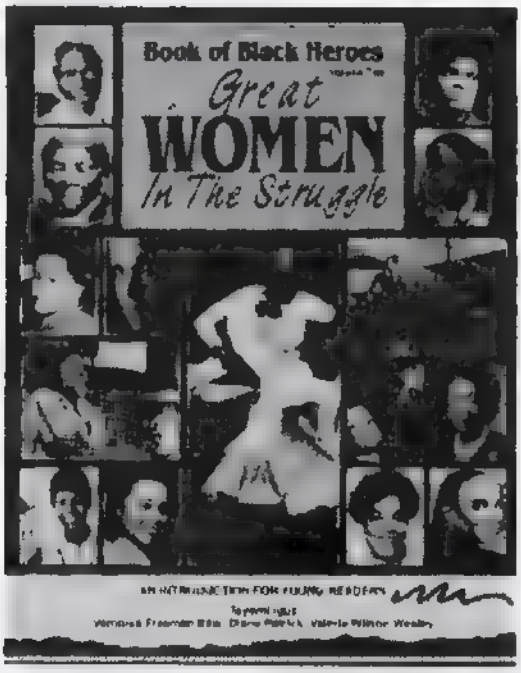
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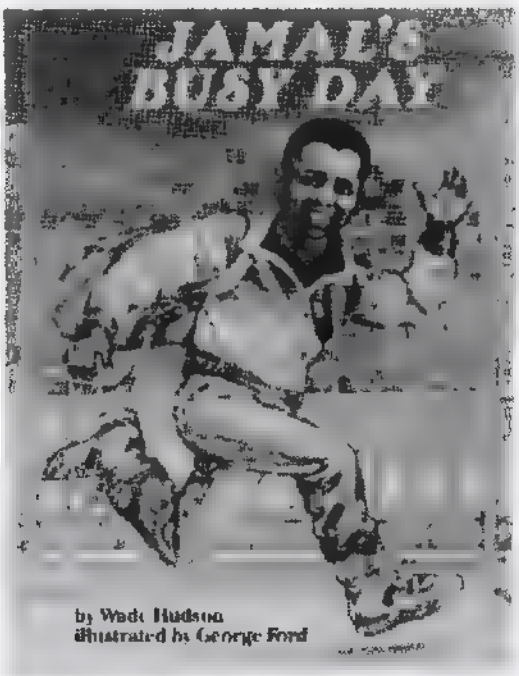
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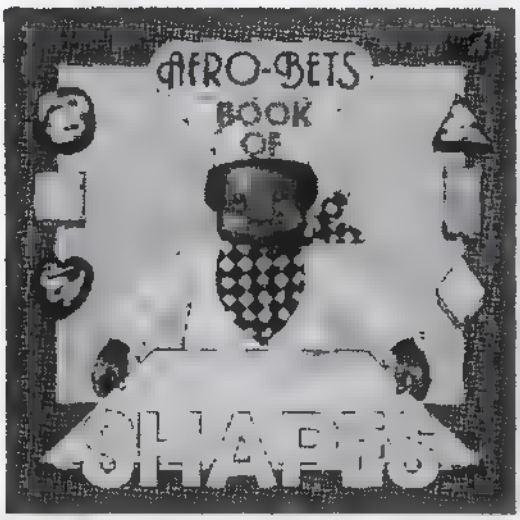
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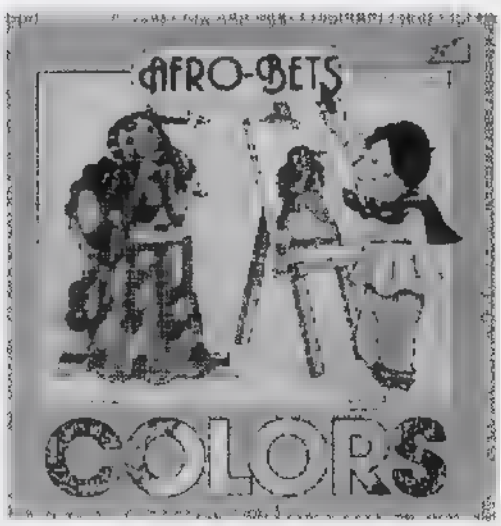
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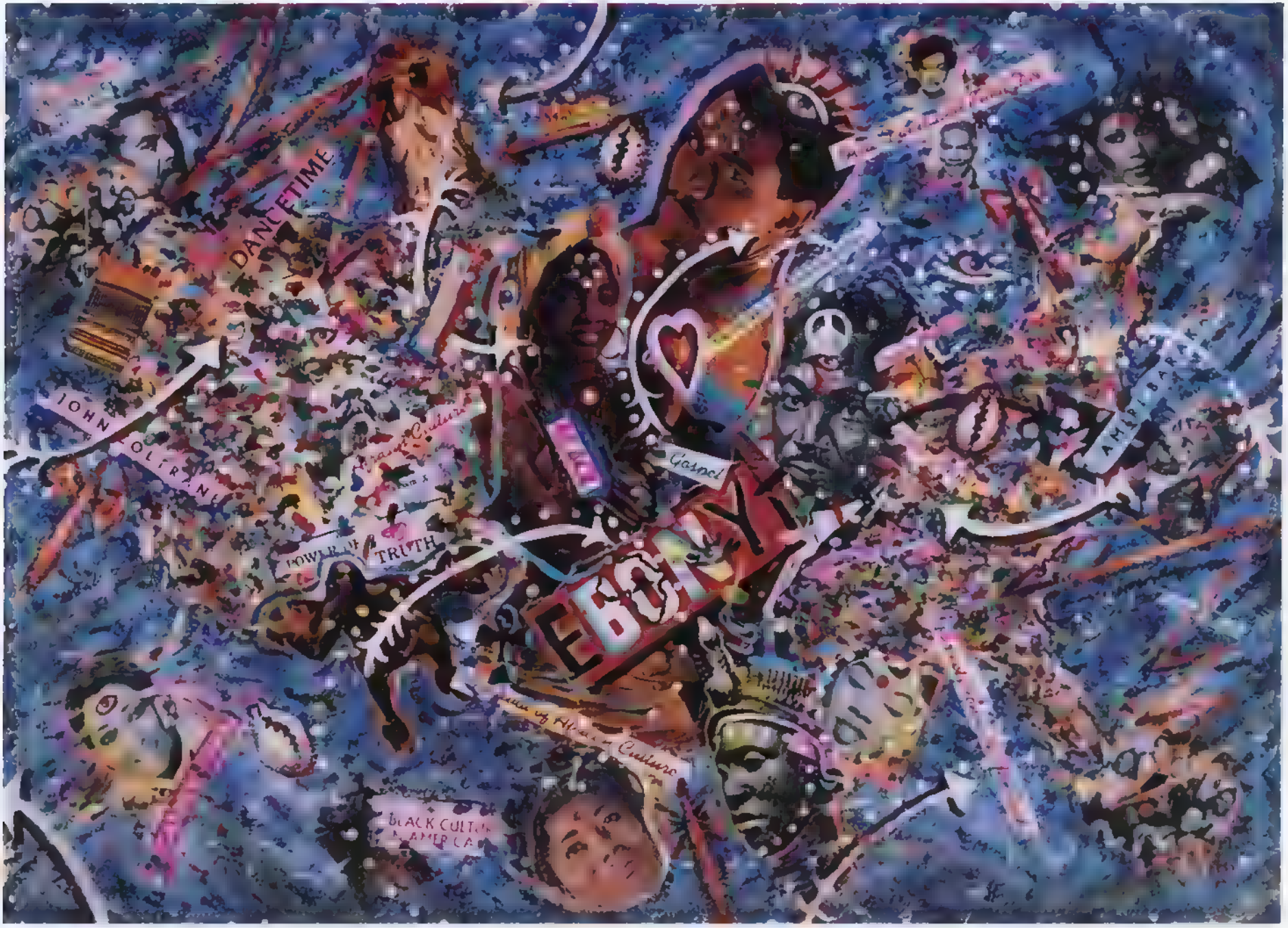
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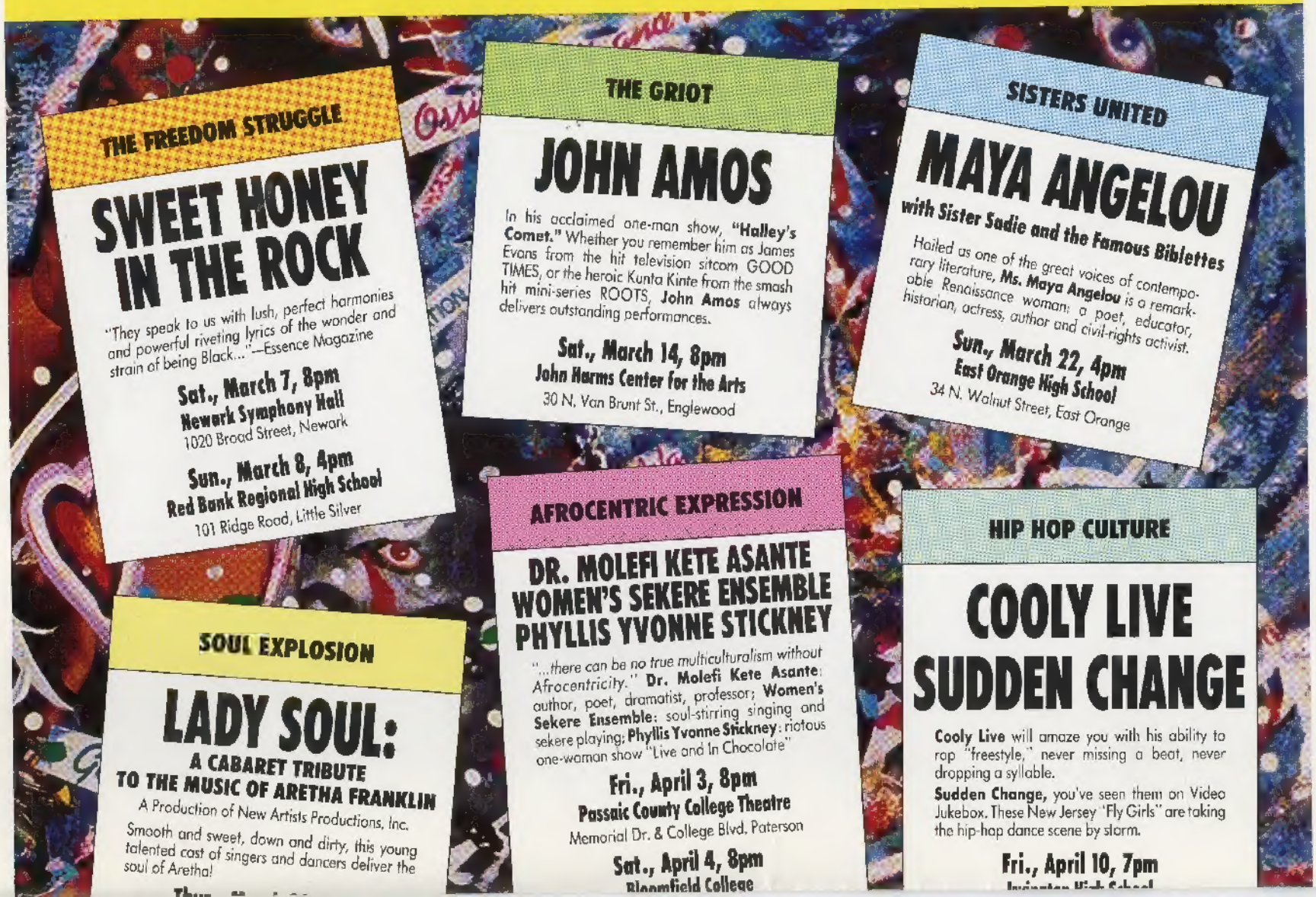
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D	MAYA ANGELOU	Sun.	March 22	4pm	East Orange High School	~~$10~~	$8
E F G H	LADY SOUL: A CABARET TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF ARETHA FRANKLIN	Thur. Fri. Sat. Sun.	March 26 March 27 March 28 March 29	8pm 8pm 1pm 6pm	Newark Symphony Hall Terrace Room	~~$20~~	$16
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N	URBAN BUSH WOMEN	Mon.	May 11	8pm	Montclair State College	~~$10~~	$8
	BENNY GOLSON	Wed.	May 6	7pm	Rosa Parks H.S.	FREE	FREE
	AMIRI BARAKA, MARI EVANS HAKI MADHUBUTI, SONIA SANCHEZ	Sat.	May 9	7pm	Jersey City State College	FREE	FREE
	ANDERSON STRING QUARTET RICHARD ALSTON, PIANIST	Sun.	May 31	3pm	The Newark Museum	FREE	FREE

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Amiri Baraka



Sweet Honey In The Rock

OnStage In New Jersey
AMERICAN CULTURE REDEFINED:
The Influence of African-American Artists on Urban Culture



Lady Soul



Sonia Sanchez



Dr. Molefi Kete Asante



Urban Bush Women



Haki Madhubuti



Mari Evans



Cooly Live

This year, the Woodson Foundation's OnStage In New Jersey series represents the collective values, attitudes and philosophies of the period from 1942 to 1992. Each performance affirms a common tongue, drawing on African traditions and practices, their values, attitudes and standards.

African-American culture is steeped in a tradition of powerful oratory. **John Amos'** portrayal of the universal patriarch in **"Halley's Comet"**, like the African **Griot,** personifies a complex social function that embraces everything from ecological and social issues to the roles of historian, social critic and village gossip.

Gospel was born of a cultural cauldron shaped by an African legacy and the urban experience. Today's Black Gospel gained its sound and expression from an open, improvisatory style of singing that is characteristic of Black vocal music, combined with the exciting rhythms of the Sanctified Church, the influence of an urban milieu, and the blues. **In the Spirit** will be apparent in the performance by **Marion Williams.**

The 1950's, among other things, saw the emergence of Bop. It was a period when African-American artists tried to regain control of their music. One of the disciples was Benny Golson. A composer, arranger, and saxophonist, Golson is one of the most original and distinctive modern-jazz musicians to emerge during this period. During his **Jazz Journey** he has composed such standards as "I Remember Clifford," "Blues March" and "Killer Joe."

It matters little whether you are talking about **The Freedom Struggle** in Langston Hughes' freedom train, or about the freedom struggle rendered in the songs of **Sweet Honey In The Rock.** What is important is that songs of the freedom struggle are important as music and for the events and circumstances that created them. The music addresses a universal desire for freedom and the belief that justice will ultimately prevail; it often serves as a formula for achieving one's freedom.

For ministers of the spoken word, the Black Consciousness Movement is about defining oneself, about self-actualization. Thus, **Amiri Baraka, Sonia Sanchez, Haki Madhubuti** and **Mari Evans** speak, with the collective voice of **The Black Consciousness Movement;** they write **Poetry for the People.**

To understand the **Soul Explosion** in the African-American community, one must first understand the critical role of music, the spoken words of the preacher, poet and rapper, or the way one expresses their individuality. Soul is the cultural expression of ordinary people. Behaviors and attitudes that reflect an African heritage are sung forcefully by **Lady Soul** in their **Cabaret Tribute to Aretha Franklin,** the Queen of Soul.

By the 1960's and 70's, African-American women began to assert themselves and the beauty of their blackness, no longer willing to accept the European definition of beauty. **Maya Angelou, Amina Baraka, Betty Neals, Urban Bush Women** and **Sister Sadie and the Famous Biblettes,** all **Sisters United,** address the questions they face daily: How to assert and maintain identities in a world that does not always acknowledge their existence, and how to maintain balance while at the same time, as Stetson contends, "containing their rage in order to express their warmth, love, anger and pain?"

Afrocentricity places classical African civilizations, the reconnection of Egypt to Africa, at its center. It invokes the realities of the past as a way to see the future. **Dr. Molefi Kete Asante** believes that "as the torch is passed, each generation sees a little more through the cocoon, and each generation reclaims a little more of the history and culture." On this foundation, Dr. Asante, **Phyllis Yvonne Stickney** and **Women's Sekere Ensemble** build their **Afrocentric Expressions.**

The 1980's brought forth African-American classical artists who challenged the standards set by European artists. Drawing on refined classical techniques, but infused with African heritage and traditions, the **Anderson String Quartet** and **Richard Alston** are truly **Classical and Black.**

Rap music has developed into one of the most significant musical creations of the decade. It is a verbal art form in which language, technology, sound and visual dimensions are merged to create a unique urban popular sound. **Hip-Hop Culture,** as demonstrated by **Cooly Live!** and **Sudden Change** redefines the relationship between music, dance and language; the boundaries between speech and movement and song; and the levels at which meaning may reside in music.



Richard Alston



Maya Angelou



Anderson String Quartet



Marion Williams



Benny Golson



Sister Sadie and the Biblettes



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